

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled).
2. (Previously presented) A method for treating a pharyngeal airway having a pharyngeal wall of a patient at least partially surrounding and defining said airway, said method comprising:
 - inserting an expander member into said airway and positioning an active portion of said expander member in an interior of said airway and external to a tissue of said pharyngeal wall and in opposition to an airway-defining tissue of portions of said wall to be treated;
 - activating said expander member to urge against said airway-defining tissue of said portions to urge said portions to an outwardly displaced position;
 - deactivating said expander member while leaving said portions in said outwardly placed position;
 - removing said expander member from said airway; and
 - wherein said activating of said expander member creates an area of compressed tissue of said patient adjacent said portions and said method further comprising injecting a biocompatible tissue stabilizer into said compressed tissue while said portions are in said outwardly placed positions.
3. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 2 wherein said tissue stabilizer is an adhesive and said removing of said expander member occurs after at least initial setting of said adhesive.
4. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 2 wherein said tissue stabilizer is a fibrosis-inducing agent and said injecting includes injecting a said fibrosis-inducing agent into said compressed tissue to induce a fibrotic response from said compressed tissue.

5. (Original)) A method according to claim 3 wherein said fibrosis-inducing agent is substantially non-biodegradable for said agent to induce a chronic fibrotic response.
6. (Original) A method according to claim 5 wherein said fibrosis-inducing agent is a bolus of particulate material.
7. (Previously presented) A method for treating a pharyngeal airway having a pharyngeal wall of a patient at least partially surrounding and defining said airway, said method comprising:
- inserting an expander member into said airway and positioning an active portion of said expander member in an interior of said airway and external to a tissue of said pharyngeal wall and in opposition to an airway-defining tissue of portions of said wall to be treated;
 - activating said expander member to urge against said airway-defining tissue of said portions to urge said portions to an outwardly displaced position;
 - deactivating said expander member while leaving said portions in said outwardly placed position;
 - removing said expander member from said airway; and
 - injecting a fibrosis-inducing agent into said compressed tissue to induce a fibrotic response from said compressed tissue.
8. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein said fibrosis-inducing agent is substantially non-biodegradable for said agent to induce a chronic fibrotic response.
9. (Original) A method according to claim 8 wherein said fibrosis-inducing agent is a bolus of particulate material.
- 10-11. (Canceled).
12. (Previously presented) A method for treating a pharyngeal airway having a pharyngeal wall of a patient at least partially surrounding and defining said airway, said method comprising:

stabilizing at least a portion of said pharyngeal wall against underlying structure by securing said portion of said pharyngeal wall to said structure to resist inward collapse of said pharyngeal wall; and

wherein said stabilization includes mechanically securing said portion to said structure;

wherein said stabilization includes suturing said portion to said structure.

13 – 16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously presented) A method for treating a pharyngeal airway having a pharyngeal wall of a patient at least partially surrounding and defining said airway, said method comprising:

compressing at least a portion of a tissue of said pharyngeal wall to a compressed state;

stabilizing said portion of said tissue in said compressed state;

wherein said stabilization includes mechanically securing said portion to a structure underlying said wall; and

wherein said stabilization includes suturing said portion to a structure underlying said wall.

18 – 21. (Canceled).

22. (Previously presented) An apparatus for treating a pharyngeal airway having a pharyngeal wall of a patient at least partially surrounding and defining said airway, said method comprising;

an expander member dimensioned so as to be inserted into said airway with an active portion of said expander member positioned in an interior of said airway and external to a tissue of said pharyngeal wall and in opposition to an airway-defining tissue of portions of said wall to be treated;

an activator for activating said expander member to urge against said airway-defining tissue of said portions to urge said portions an outwardly displaced position;

said expander member adapted to be deactivated while leaving said portions in said outwardly placed position;
said expander member further dimensioned so as to be removable from said airway; and
an injector for injecting a fibrosis-inducing agent into compressed tissue adjacent said portions while said portions are in said outwardly placed positions.

23. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 22 wherein said fibrosis-inducing agent is substantially non-biodegradable.

24. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 23 wherein said expander member carries a bolus of a particulate material as said fibrosis-inducing agent.